



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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City of Cambridge Accepting Nominations for the Cambridge Poet Populist

Nomination Deadline: January 14, 2011
Election: March 2 through April 4, 2011

Cambridge, MA – The Cambridge Arts Council announces an election that promises a fountain of clever wit, a measure of suspense, an abundance of inspiration and possibly iambic pentameter. This election will capture your heart, stir your imagination, and conjure the poet inside us all. The time has come to nominate and elect the next Cambridge Poet Populist!

Every two years, Cambridge residents have the unique opportunity to elect a Poet Populist, also known as a “Poet of the People” for a two-year term. Now through Friday, January 14, 2011 at 12 Noon, the Cambridge community will nominate poets from Cambridge to be considered for the position. Nomination forms are available on the Cambridge Arts Council website, www.cambridgeartscouncil.org, at Cambridge Public Libraries, and at the Cambridge Arts Council, City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway, 2nd Fl., Cambridge.

Nominees will be reviewed by a Selection Committee, which will narrow the list of nominees to approximately five semi finalists. These semi finalists will move onto the election process and take part in a series of public readings around Cambridge. Voting will take place from March 2, 2011 through April 4, 2011. The elected Poet Populist will be announced and take office in April 2011 during National Poetry Month.

For more information, to download nomination forms, or to get involved, please visit www.cambridgeartscouncil.org or call the Cambridge Arts Council at 617-349-4380.

About the Cambridge Poet Populist Program

The Poet Populist Program is sponsored by the City of Cambridge, Cambridge Arts Council, and Cambridge Public Library. The Poet Populist is elected by Cambridge residents to this unofficial office of the City of Cambridge with a “mandate” to create his or her unique style of poetry-focused events and programs that celebrate poetry and benefit the broader population.

Modeled, in part, on Seattle's Poet Populist Project, Cambridge's Poet Populist program was developed in 2007 to facilitate the creation and appreciation of poetry throughout the city for all Cambridge residents. Cambridge developed a Poet Populist program to give Cambridge residents the opportunity to nominate and elect fellow citizens to the position, rather than appointing a poet to represent poetry, which is the common procedure for Poet Laureate programs.

The third Poet Populist to take office in April 2011 will succeed **Jean-Dany Joachim** (2009-2011) and **Peter Payack** (2007-2009). Programs initiated by these Poet Populists have included a Poetry Festival; fortune cookies with couplets tucked inside; a Community Poem weaved together from over a thousand submissions from residents; poetry scavenger hunt; reading series; and public appearances, including a feature on WGBH Kids animated show, *Arthur*.

For more information, visit www.cambridgeartscouncil.org or call 617-349-4380.

Cambridge Arts Council – Nurturing the Arts in Cambridge

The Cambridge Arts Council exists to ensure that the arts remain vital for people living, working and visiting Cambridge. www.cambridgeartscouncil.org or 617-349-4380.

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